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February 3, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ELDA HALL PLANS RETIREMENT

CHARLESTON, IL--Elda Hall of Charleston will retire Feb. 28 as purchasing director at Eastern Illinois University after more than 33 years of service to the University.

Hall has worked in the purchasing department for 33 1/2 years, seven of those as purchasing director. She and her staff handle the University's annual purchases of some \$12 million in goods and services.

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"It has been a challenge acquiring the right item at the right price at the right time," Hall said.

When Hall joined the purchasing staff in 1958 as a clerk steno-I, she and the assistant director of business services made up the department. Now as purchasing director, she has six civil service employees and four students.

"I have enjoyed working with many EIU faculty and staff, as well as thousands of vendors throughout the United States," Hall said.

She added, "I have always felt the purchasing department is a service organization, and have tried my best to fulfill the requests for purchases from University departments and still abide by the many rules and regulations of governmental purchasing."

While Hall did not aspire to the director's position initially, she gave it more consideration as she moved up the civil service ladder.

In 1969, she enrolled in Eastern's Career Occupations Program. After attending classes part-time for 13 years while continuing to work full-time, she finally earned her bachelor's degree in 1982.

Hall credits much of her success to her family's continued support, including husband Billy, retired minister and founder of the Bethel Chapel Assembly of God Church in Charleston, and children, Linda Brooks of Rockford, a former EIU student, and Bill, an EIU graduate and minister in Detroit.

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HALL RETIREMENT

Hall's husband also has had a long association with Eastern, having worked part-time as an instructional materials technician in the theatre arts department for 22 years before retiring last year.

"We have made many friends at Eastern and in the community and have tried to present a positive influence," Hall said.

The Halls plan to continue living in rural Charleston, remain active in the ministry and travel.